Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 25 Number 1 *January 2008*

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Flooding In Southwest Washington

by Norene Goplen, ELCA Domestic Disaster Response in Portland, Oregon

Lutheran Disaster Response NW

....a collaborative effort of the ELCA Synods and the LCMS Pacific Northwest District in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington in partnership with Lutheran Community Services NW and our national church organizations.

In a disaster, who are the first responders? They are your neighbors, friends and family. Quickly local emergency response by police, fire and local government begin to assess and respond. With a presidential declaration, FEMA is empowered to bring financial, organizational, and networking resources. At this writing (12/11/07), 11 counties in Oregon and Washington have received this declaration and five more are expected to receive this support.

Simultaneously, the non governmental agencies join with their immense resources. After the first response, groups like Lutheran Disaster Response NW are prepared to assist or lead state and local volunteers in the cleanup and direct assistance needed by individuals and families. We will also prepare for reconstruction in the affected areas.

Our significant partners are the organizations that are part of the Oregon and Washington

continued on pages 6 and 7

In This Issue--Highlights

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Page 11 ..... Synod Mobility

Our Companion Synod In Ethiopia

by Ethiopia Companion Task Force— Fred and Yvonne Robbins, and Rev. Ben Bretheim (ret.)

Dear Brothers, and Sister in Christ,

We truly need your prayers and support to finish a commitment the Northwest Washington Synod Ethiopia Companion Synod Task Force has been working on. The good news is that we have a portion of what we need and now need your help to finish the job. Church.

1) Need $5,000 for church furnishings for Kara-Kore Church. We have sent $2,230 and now need $2,770 to complete.
2) Need $8,000 for the Ethiopia Annual Lay Leadership/Evangelism Training. We have sent $1,073.64 and now need $6,926.36 to complete.

Please help us to fulfill our companion synod church program commitment that will help our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia. The church is growing very fast and needs our prayers and support. I am sure if our congregations were growing like they are, and we asked for support, we would receive it. We as the Synod Task Force support this effort and want to thank you for your gifts. Please send your gifts to Region 1 or to the Synod Office.

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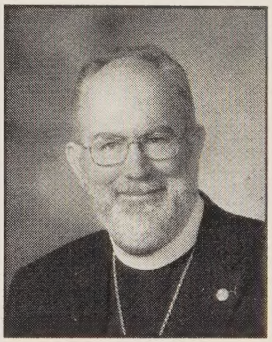
Deadline for the February 2008 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Wednesday, Jan. 2. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Bishop



The Reverend
Wm Chris Boerger

"set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. [13] Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. [14] Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. [15] Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. [16] Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.."

1 Timothy 4:12-16 NRSV

This text is read as part of the installation service for new pastors. I read it to the one who is about to begin a new call with the expectation that these words will serve as a focus for the ministry of that pastor in this new congregation.

I am also struck by the admonition to "give attention to the public reading of scripture". That is what we do when we gather for worship. Most of our liturgy is scripture set to music. The language of scripture is the language of the church.

I am also aware that the interpretation of scripture is becoming a personal activity. The admonition to public reading places it in the midst of the assembly, the people gathered for worship and study. It is also important for those gathered to recognize the importance of community in the way in which we interpret scripture.

Mark Allan Powell, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, recently retold the study that he describes in his book *What Do They Hear?*. He describes asking people to retell the story of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15: 11-32. When asking 100 North Americans to tell why the young man is eating with the swine, 100 percent said it was because he squandered his property. He ask 50 people in St. Petersburg, Russia, the same question and 84 percent said it was because of a famine in the land. He tried this again in Tanzania and found that 80 percent noted that "no one gave him anything to eat."

All three are right. All three reasons are in the text. Where we live does affect the way the public reading of scripture is heard. We need the whole community to assist us in hearing the word among us. Scripture is too important to be left to our own private interpretations. We should hear how others in the church catholic are hearing scripture. In that way we hear more than our own voices, we hear the voice of God.

Pastor Cheung Installed

After several years of prayer between a consortium of local congregations, synodical and regional representatives, and Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM), Pastor Paul Cheung was finally installed as the Mission Developer for the Grace Chinese Lutheran Church of Sammamish Hills on the eastside of King County. Pastor Cheung was installed into this exciting new ministry at Sammamish Hills on Sunday, November 18. The service was unique, featuring readings and hymns in both Chinese and English while being led by the Sammamish Hills in-house Blues band, led by Pastor William Sappington.

State Advocate's Corner

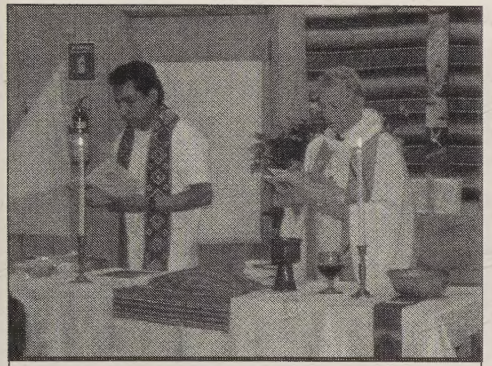
by Rev. Paul Benz

Lutheran Public Policy
Office of Washington State
dcoombs@lcsnw.org
206-464-4133
www.lppowa.org

A new year is now beginning! Our hopes, dreams and vision for our Church and our world are mixed with the realities of our Church and world. It is only with God's daily presence and sustaining strength that we can continue to be advocates for justice working to see our hopes, dreams and vision become realities—albeit slowly, but surely. Two key events this month for the Public Church:

- Monday, January 14, our state legislature convenes.
  - Pray for your three state legislators and the governor by name on one or more Sundays.
  - Be a faithful citizen and an advocate for justice by engaging your state legislator with your concern by email, calling 1-800-562-6000, or writing a letter.
- Tuesday, January 29 is Lutheran/Faith Advocacy Day.
  - This year we are at Good Shepherd in Olympia and begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. Registration packets were mailed in December. For more information visit advocacyday@gmail.com.
  - If you are not able to attend Faith Advocacy Day please join us by calling, emailing or writing your state legislator and or the governor (for your legislator's email address or mailing address contact LPPO (Lutheran Public Policy Office) or visit www.lppowa.org. For the legislative issues LPPO is covering please visit the website for our latest email alert and our 2008 legislative agenda.

El Camino de Emaus



Emilio Benitez, a leader at El Camino, and Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, during the worship.

The El Camino de Emaus summit was a celebration of the decision of that community to become a Congregation Under Development (CUD). The day included discussions about the processes with which they would engage, the possibility of two young men in the community going to seminary as TEEM candidates, and culminated with a lavish dinner of Mexican and American food, desserts and balloons for the kids and finally the baptisms of two children in the El Camino community. Pastor Eduardo Cabrera preached at the service which was presented bilingually. Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, assisted in the service and participated in the baptisms. Rev. Mary Bosell, who has worked closely with the El Camino community presided at communion.

The community is excited about the new possibilities ahead for them and how they can partner with others to support their candidates for ministry as well as continue to grow as a congregation. Burlington Lutheran Church hosted the summit and has been the "home" of the Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community, "El Camino de Emaus." Members of congregations who have been part of the initial impetus for El Camino were present at the summit and pledged their ongoing support for its further development.

Other persons or congregations who would like to offer financial support for this new ministry are invited to send financial contributions to the synod indicating "El Camino Development" for the growth and development of the congregation or "El Camino Scholarships" which will support the candidate expenses in the TEEM program.

Book of Faith

At the 2007 Churchwide Assembly voting members committed to a five-year initiative of "broader and deeper engagement with Scripture." This initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, and empowered by the Word. For more information visit www.elca.org/bookoffaith .

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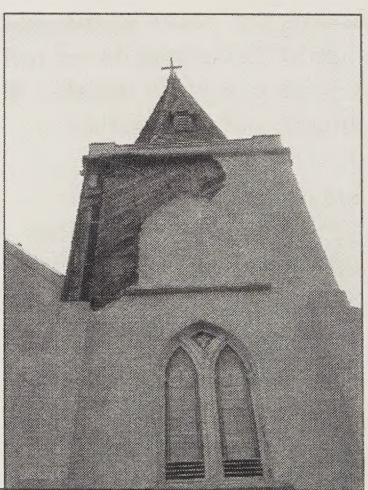
Flooding In Southwest Washington

VOADS [Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster] and WIDRO [Washington Interfaith Disaster Response Organization] ORVOAD had it's first disaster response meeting on December 11, organized by Lutheran Disaster Response NW. The WAVOAD will have its meeting December 14 in Seattle. Key contacts for all groups in Oregon are Norene Goplen LDR-NW LutheranAdvocate@aol.com and in Washington, Neil Molenaar of WIDRO NeilMolenaar@aol.com Both are organizing Long Term Recovery Committees in local communities in these states.

Raymond, Washington. Photo from Rev. Laurie Jones, Willappa Harbor Lutheran Parish.

And who is there as the last responders? Your neighbors, friends, and family…and Lutheran Disaster Response is there until the job is done.

Stories of those first efforts:



Saron Lutheran in Hoquaim, WA. Photo taken by Rev. Linda Milks, Saron Lutheran Church, Hoquiam.

Galilean Chapel at Ocean Shores Washington had a generator. As the storms hit and power was lost throughout the coastal communities, they became the local shelter, feeding center, and pastoral presence helping neighbors to stay warm and secure.

Faith Lutheran in St Helen's Oregon responded quickly to a rural family of 8 at Deer Island who had lost their pumps. Until the pumps are repaired, they are bringing water for cooking, individual needs, sanitation needs, … and friendship. For a family ranging from a 2 year old to a disabled grandmother, it is a sign of hope and recovery.

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The Spirit

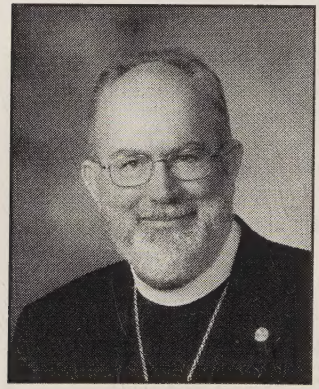
Volume 25, Number 1

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 2008

Respecting Our Indian and Alaska Communities

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



In 1987 leaders of most of the Christian judicatories based in Seattle signed an apology to the Native American communities for our sins in taking the land that we now enjoy. We committed ourselves to respect our Indian and Alaska native communities as we live together in the future. At that time the bishops of two of our predecessor churches, Tom Blevins and Lowell Knutson, signed the apology. In 1997 the same denominations reissued the apology again. This time our bishop, Don Maier, signed on our behalf.

We are now at the twentieth anniversary of

as Lutherans have had limited contact, if any. Several of our members are working closely with native communities, but as a church we are slow to establish relationships. It is out of these avoidances that the sin of racism grows. The meeting last month decided that we would not re-apologize again. We meant it in 1987 and in 1997. Now we move toward living in restored relationships. That is always harder than saying we are sorry.

In the coming months I hope that we will see dialogs to address common issues and to address the realities of life with our native sisters and brothers. Issues of health care affect both of our communities. The high rate of infant mortality among the native communities is a scandal that should be

December Floods

How To Help Our Neighbors

Lutheran Disaster Response NW is a collaborative effort of the ELCA Synods and the LCMS Pacific Northwest District in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington in partnership with Lutheran Community Services NW and our national church organizations.

In a disaster, who are the first responders? They are your neighbors, friends and family. Quickly local emergency response by police, fire and local government begin to assess and respond. With a presidential declaration, FEMA is empowered to bring financial, organizational, and networking resources. At this writing (12/11/07), 11 counties in Oregon and Washington have received this declaration and five more are expected to receive this support.

Simultaneously, the non governmental agencies join with their immense resources. After the first response, groups like Lutheran Disaster Response NW are prepared to assist or lead state and local volunteers in the cleanup and direct assistance needed by individuals and families. We will also prepare for reconstruction in the affected areas.

If you would like to give to this disaster please visit the ELCA website (www.elca.org/disaster/giving/) and designate the gift as the Oregon/Washington Floods.

At the time of publication of this issue of *The Spirit* the synod staff is working on adding information regarding the flooding for the synod's website. The goal is to have it available to view by December 19. Please visit www.lutheransnw.org.

Cookies for Our Military

Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Lake Stevens

More than 20 women and men from Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Lake Stevens worked steady for two days baking over 160 dozen cookies, making 140 Cross in the Pocket gifts, and filling many Ziplok bags full of Merry Mix for military personnel in the U.S. and around the world. This is our way of saying thank you for defending our great land even would like to very much thank you. It does mean a lot to us."

This was an awesome and inspiring project – born of grateful, caring hearts – that will bless many people. We're really proud of everyone who was involved. Carolyn Lynd, our inspirational organizer, says, "We want to make even more next year!"

The little Cross in the Pocket gifts are reminders that no matter where they are – safe at home or on the battlefield – God loves them and they are being prayed for.

Everyone worked together to pack the cookies, crosses, Merry Mix, and flyers ever so carefully in boxes; and the Lake Stevens American Legion Post 181 donated $230 for shipping the boxes. There were other people involved who could not bake, clean, or pack, but they donated the ingredients to bake the cookies.

Quotes from recipients: Monika wrote, "My son-in-law, Jason, and his entire shop were surprised and truly touched to receive the box of cookies." "Badger" Bob emailed, "On behalf of myself and the group of people I am with, I

(ELCA), is intended for members, leaders, and clergy of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy ***The Spirit*** and include it in their own newsletters. ***The Spirit*** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

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7 and 8 I participated with the leaders of other denominations in a gathering to listen again to our indigenous communities. The news of the apology was heard around the world 20 years ago. Leaders from our Indian communities in Washington shared the apology with other indigenous communities. Leaders from New Zealand, Canada and the rest of the United States read what we said. The apology played a role in issues related to Madrona Point on Orcas Island and at Snoqualmie Falls.

It is important that we build on the apology in building relationship with communities that we

done between our communities cannot be ignored. We believe that the reign of God was established on the cross. As God's people through Jesus' death and resurrection our sin has been put to death. We do not ignore it or minimize its affects. At the same time we are called to live as forgiven children of God. We can relate to the pain of the world because God has come into the world's pain to bring hope. It is living in this hope that we now honestly come to know our native sister and brother.

Editor's Note: In last month's bishop column this editor incorrectly stated that Wartburg Theological Seminary was located in Waverly, Iowa. Wartburg College is located in Waverly, Iowa, and Wartburg Theological Seminary is located in Dubuque, Iowa.

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Flooding In Southwest Washington

relief center in Vernonia, Oregon. Overwhelmed by donated food, cleanup supplies, clothing, and household goods, items were scattered on the floor. Our churches gathered tables, delivered and set them up to help their volunteers to organize material for this stricken community.

The historic theater sign in downtown Raymond.

Family for Kids, a program of Lutheran Community Services. The coordinator of this program in Centralia called desperate for help for four foster families listing needs such as heat; a full size bed; food; twin box mattress and box; soap ; garden hoses to spray down homes; I gave her background info on resources, but if you can help contact Laverta Hartley Cell: 360-430-5681 Later we will have a coordinated process for informing you of needs.

Trinity Lutheran (LCMS) at Mount Vernon, Washington has provided teams who have responded to Katrina needs in the gulf coast states. Immediately they became available for cleanup and are part of the planning process for rebuilds in Oregon and Washington.

and…a Lutheran Disaster Response Coordinator from Biloxi Mississippi called to say thank you to the teams from the Northwest who have helped them, and offered help and financial assistance to us.

God be praised for the hearts and hands of Lutherans in the Northwest who are already helping their neighbors.

How You Can Help

The Pacific Northwest coordinator for ELCA Domestic Disaster Response is Norene Goplen, disaster coordinator for Lutheran Community Services Northwest. She is located in Portland, Oregon—phone 503-731-9519, email lutheranadvocate@aol.com.

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Gloria Dei Endowment Fund

Editor's Note: The Gloria Dei Endowment Fund Information can easily be found on the Synod's website under For Our Leadership.

In 1990 Gloria Dei Lutheran in Newport Hills closed its doors and sold its property, giving the proceeds as an Endowment to the Northwest Washington Synod. Over the years, the Gloria Dei Fund has provided many grants to assist professional leaders with sabbaticals, continuing education and leadership development opportunities and seed money for new or expanding ministries.

The Governing By-Laws of the Gloria Dei Endowment Fund stipulate that a minimum of 60% of grant funds be used for sabbatical, continuing education and leadership development for rostered leaders. Other allowable purposes are evangelism and parish outreach, parish education, support for mission congregations and support of the social ministries of the NW Washington Synod.

The Gloria Dei Endowment Fund Committee welcomes applications for grants. An application form which includes grant guidelines is available for download on the synod's website: www.lutheransnw.org.

Committee members are Bev Piro, Phinney Ridge, Chair; Karen Dicken, Holy Spirit, Kirkland; and Marlin Appelwick, Faith, Seattle. Grant applications should be submitted to the Fund's chair, Pastor Beverly Piro at Phinney Ridge Lutheran, 7500 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103. For more information contact Pastor Piro at 206-783-2350 or bpiro@prlc.org.

News and Notes

- The staff and faculty of **Seattle Lutheran High School** are hosting an Open House at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 7. Come learn about the school's focus on the whole student through their small group ministry, advising program, service learning model and character education. For more information call 206-937-7722, ext. 18.
- **Doug Starup, a member of Immanuel Lutheran in Seattle,** was nominated for a Seattle Mayor's End Hunger Award by fellow meal providers from the Meals Partnership Coalition. Every Tuesday Doug prepares a delicious meal for 80 men at The Compass Center's Men's Program in Pioneer Square. He spends up to ten hours per week planning, shopping, cooking and serving the dinners.
- On Sunday, January 6, 2008, members of **Salem Lutheran in Mount Vernon** will hold a mortgage burning party. The festivities will begin at 5 p.m.

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

We continue to hold in our prayers:

- † **The Rev. Charles Davis (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
- † **Bill France, husband of the Rev. Sarah France of Morning Star Lutheran in Monroe**
- † **The Rev. Ed Kasten (ret.)**
- † **Paula Ingebritson, wife of Pastor Joel Ingebritson, Bethlehem Lutheran in Seattle**
- † **Arlett Nordsletten, widow of Pastor Olin Nordsletten**
- † **The Rev. Robert V. Rieke (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. Erik Kindem**
- † **The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, pastor at University in Seattle**
- † **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. Roger Patrow (ret.)**
- † **Linda Petrasek, wife of the Rev. Phil Petrasek, pastor at Christ Lutheran in Ferndale**
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

We pray for:

† **The mother of David Gross, synod council member.** David's mother Betty J. Gross had extensive surgery in November for lung cancer. David is a member of Ebenezer Lutheran in Lake Stevens. Cards may be sent to the Gross Family at 13314 Meridian St, Lake Stevens WA 98258-9763.

† **For DeDe Boerger, wife of the Rev. Chris Boerger, bishop,** who recently underwent arthroscopic surgery. Cards may be sent to the Synod office: 5519 Phinney Ave North, Seattle, WA 98103-5829.

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Southwest Washington who are experiencing the devastation from the recent flooding. We pray for the people of Iraq and the people of Afghanistan and all people experiencing concern. We pray for peace.

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, toll free 1-800-244-6997. This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.

4Kidz Mission Investment Fund

"I love having a Mission Investment for KIDZ account....I know I am helping churches grow, and I am learning to save!" .....a 12 year old investor. Give a child in your life an opportunity to help with the mission of the church, by giving a Mission Investment 4Kidz this Christmas! For more information, contact: margie.fiedler@elca.org or 208-664-7973. Or visit www.missioninvestmentfund.org./

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Ryan D Fletcher	Our Savior, Issaquah	11/16/2007
Kari H. Reiten	Faith, Everett	1/2/2008
Kathleen McCallum Sachse	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	1/1/2008
Carl W. Schwinck	Freeborn, Stanwood	12/1/2008
Bill Walles	Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley	12/1/2007
Tammie Zarfos, Associate in Ministry	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	11/11/2007
Installations		
Elwood (Woody) Carlson	Wooden Cross, Woodinville	11/4/2007
Paul Sai Wei Cheung	Sammamish Hills, Sammamish	11/18/2007
Ryan D Fletcher	Our Savior, Issaquah	12/2/2007
Eileen Hanson	Trinity, Lynnwood	12/2/2007
Kari H. Reiten	Faith, Everett	1/27/2008
Bill Walles	Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley	12/16/2007
Tammie Zarfos	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	12/9/2007
Occasions/Events		
Gloria Dei, Adlerwood Manor	40th Anniversary	12/10/2007
Ordinations/Commissionings		
Kari Reiten	Gift of Grace, SEattle	1/20/2008
Tammie Zarfos, Associate in Ministry	Cross and Crown, Renton	11/11/2007
Resignation		
Rita Anderson	Saint Andrew's, Bellevue	11/25/2007
Mary Bosell	Burlington, Burlington	11/12/2007
Richard Grinstad	Burlington, Burlington	1/13/2008
Tom Hamren	Light of the Cross, Bothell	1/31/2008
Michael Schultz Rothermel	From the ELCA Roster	11/28/2007
Transfers In/Out of the Synod		
Ryan D. Fletcher	From La Cross Area Synod	11/16/2007
Richard Grinstad	To Southwestern Washington Synod	1/13/2008

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

(Transitions can be found on page 14.)

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Burlington, Burlington	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Edmonds, Edmonds	A	NV	Michael Ross, Pastor
Everett, Trinity	PR	P	Chris Anderson, Interim
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Stuart Lundahl, Interim
Marysville, Bethlehem	PR	TR	Neil Snider, Interim
Mercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	A/SP	NV	Jerry Buss, Pastor
Seatac, Prince of Peace	A	NV	Conrad Tollefson, Pastor
Seattle, Calvary	PR	TR	Supply
Seattle, Crown	PR	TR	Dan Selmann, Interim
Seattle, Luther Memorial	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

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Soundings
January 2008

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